

Dear Sirs,

I recently became aware of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation in America and needs to be addressed. Unbiased information is the lifeblood of a democracy and we, as a country, seem to be compromising ourselves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. Sinclair's ability to force stations to air this show (or a show against Bush for that matter) is not serving the public interest. It smacks of Hitler's Germany and the propaganda machine of the 30s. Are we going to allow that to happen again?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you and regards,

Don Langeberg